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A NAVY FOR REASONABLE PROTECTION

SIR,—In the midst of popular clamor for a larger navy, we may profitably remember a warning to America uttered by Sydney Smith a century ago, and moderate our enthusiasm accordingly:

David Porter and Stephen Decatur are very brave men; but they will prove an unspeakable misfortune to their country if they inflame Jonathan into a love of naval glory, and inspire him with any other love of war than that which is founded upon a determination not to submit to serious insult and injury.

We can inform Jonathan what are the inevitable consequences of being too fond of glory:—TAXES upon every article which enters into the mouth, or covers the back, or is placed under the foot—taxes upon everything which it is pleasant to see, hear, feel, smell, or taste—taxes upon warmth, light, and locomotion—taxes upon everything on earth and the waters under the earth—on everything that comes from abroad, or is grown at home—taxes on the raw material—taxes on every fresh value that is added to it by the industry of man—taxes on the sauce which pampers man's appetite, and the drug that restores him to health—on the ermine which decorates the judge and the rope which hangs the criminal—on the poor man's salt and the rich man's spice—on the brass nails of the coffin and the ribands of the bride—at bed or at board, couchant or levant, we must pay. The school-boy whips his taxed top—the beardless youth manages his taxed horse, with a taxed bridle, on a taxed road;—and the dying Englishman, pouring his medicine, which has paid 7 per cent. into a spoon that has paid 15 per cent., flings himself back upon his chintz bed, which has paid 22 per cent., and expires in the arms of an apothecary who has paid a license of a hundred pounds for the privilege of putting him to death. His whole property is then immediately taxed from 2 to 10 per cent. Besides the probate, large fees are demanded for burying him in the chancel. His virtues are handed down to posterity on taxed marble; and he is then gathered to his fathers—to be taxed no more.

This admonition, spoken in the early part of the nineteenth century, is even more timely to-day, and any one writing from a tax-ridden European country would subscribe to every article in it. By all means let us have reasonable protection; but let us not be carried away by an un-American ambition to have "the greatest fleet on earth."

CONSUMER.

MT. AUBURN, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

CENSORSHIP APPROVED

SIR,—I have read with some interest and more amusement the article by Sydney Brooks on the "Press in War-Time." Its egotism is characteristic of the breed. I well remember how a member of the Guild immediately set out for Tokio as soon as it was known that a war with Russia was inevitable, and offered his services as adviser to the War Office. Poor fellow, he is dead now, but in the light of later events how ridiculous his whole performance! Equally so would be the masterly effort of the writer of the "Press in War-Time" "to expose defects that in the interests of the services themselves ought to be exposed."

If the press of any country would refrain from stimulating the people to support their government because their representatives were forbidden access to the firing-line, treason could go no further. If the trained and elected

officials of the government and naval and military forces of any government could not guard its interests, how could the fresh correspondent do any better?

We all know how our war correspondents bungled over our own affairs in Cuba, how only the grace of God prevented a dozen or more of them being shot, which would have been their just deserts and would have been their fate in any other country on earth.

We all remember the round-robin which might have cost us our entire army had we been fighting with any other people, and now that the Oriental has shown us the way to fight battles and win victories by leaving the conduct of the affairs of war in the hands of men trained to the business unhampered by premature exposure of plans, let us not return to the idiotic custom which has murdered more men than were ever killed in any properly conducted campaign.

J. H. MORIE.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

OUR GERMAN CITIZENS

SIR,—I was struck by the letter of A. Busse, Ph.D., Professor in Hunter College, New York, published in the January number of *THE REVIEW*. The question as to the real citizenship of the Germans residing in America seems to be pretty thoroughly answered. They seem to know no obligation to this country. In this connection it would be interesting to learn who gave the word which was passed east, west, north, and south. Was it Dr. Dernburg who gave the order? If so, he seems to be abusing his hospitality.

J. WARD WICKERSHAM.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

THE PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS

SIR,—You take the ground that Mr. Bryan was not justified in his contention that manufacturers suspended operations before election in order to arouse opposition to the new tariff law. Perhaps this is so, generally speaking, but the inclosed clipping from the *Times* of November 8th, if true, seems to indicate that the manufacturers of Pennsylvania were not averse to the reelection of Senator Penrose. We know that the war conditions, and not the tariff, caused the suspension of activities in Pennsylvania, but, curiously enough, the announcement of renewed activities did not come until after election. Possibly it is a coincidence, and not a result of desire not to renew activities until after election. It seems strange, however, that all of these companies should not be aware that they had all these orders and that they intended to resume operations in time to announce such orders and intentions prior to election.

CYRUS C. MILLER.

NEW YORK CITY.

FROM A SCOFFER

SIR,—Permit me to quote: "Great Britain and France, for example, have developed their great colonial holdings in Asia, Africa, and the Pacific without any thought that an armed clash over them ever would occur." Has the sage